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COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND LABOR  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
2176 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

October 20, 2021

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The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The past year and a half has provided parents an unprecedented window into their children's education. With virtual classrooms and remote learning taking place in homes, parents across the country saw firsthand what and how their children were – and were not – learning. This increased awareness has led to an uptick in parental interest and engagement in their children's education.

In light of these developments, effective implementation of the provisions in section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) can offer school districts and schools a powerful tool to embrace parents as indispensable partners and further involve them in the educational decision-making impacting their children. As amended by the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, section 1116 requires school districts that receive Title I funding to set aside a portion of that funding to carry out a variety of activities to engage parents in the planning, design, and implementation of educational programs.

However, lawmakers have little insight into how these provisions are being implemented. Because this section can be a powerful tool to bridge the growing divide between parents and educators, we request answers to the following questions:

- 1) for a representative sample of school districts and schools, how the parent engagement requirements in section 1116 are being implemented;
- 2) for a representative sample of school districts and schools, how funds reserved under section 1116(a)(3) are being used to support the school districts' and schools' parental engagement activities;

- 3) to what extent states are monitoring section 1116 parental engagement requirements; and
- 4) the extent to which parents are aware of their districts' and schools' section 1116 parental engagement efforts as well as the parents' views on the effectiveness of those efforts.

We appreciate your attention to this request. Please contact Mandy Schaumburg ([mandy.schaumburg@mail.house.gov](mailto:mandy.schaumburg@mail.house.gov)) with the Committee staff and Marek Laco ([marek.laco@mail.house.gov](mailto:marek.laco@mail.house.gov)) with Rep. Elise Stefanik with any questions and updates on this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virginia Foxx".

Virginia Foxx  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elise M. Stefanik".

Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress